

Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan";

Whereas the People's Republic of China has consistently refused to renounce the use of force against Taiwan;

Whereas the State Council, an official organ at the highest level of the Government of the People's Republic of China, issued a "white paper" on February 21, 2000, which threatened "to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force", if Taiwan indefinitely delays entering into negotiations with the People's Republic of China on the issue of reunification; and

Whereas the February 21, 2000, statement by the State Council significantly escalates tensions across the Taiwan Straits and sets forth a new condition that has not heretofore been stated regarding the conditions that would prompt the People's Republic of China to use force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—*

(1) the people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free, democratic society which respects human rights and embraces free markets;

(2) President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan is to be congratulated for his significant contributions to freedom and democracy on Taiwan;

(3) President-elect Chen Shui-bian and Vice President-elect Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of Taiwan are to be congratulated for their victory, and they have the strong support and best wishes of the Congress and the American people for a successful administration;

(4) it is the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China should refrain from making provocative threats against Taiwan and should instead undertake steps that would lead to a substantive dialogue, including a renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan and progress toward democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human and religious rights in the People's Republic of China; and

(5) the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) are hereby affirmed as the statutory standard by which United States policy toward Taiwan shall be determined.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 2285

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have a unanimous-consent request which I have communicated to Senator DASCHLE. He is here to respond. Before I propound it, I will say this does have to do with the issue of gasoline taxes, and it is an effort to get a process started so we can have a discussion and debate about votes on this issue.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to Calendar No. 473, S. 2285, regarding gas taxes, and that following the reporting of the bill, there be 4 hours equally divided for debate under control of the two leaders or their designees. I further ask unanimous consent that no amendments or motions be in order and, following the use or yielding back of time, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, this bill has never been in committee. It has not had the opportunity afforded most legislation to be considered, have hearings, have people come forth and talk about the implications of eliminating the gas tax. Normally bills go through committee, and then they come to the floor. That is No. 1.

No. 2, what kind of a debate would one have when no amendments are made available? I cannot imagine that on an issue of this import we would want to accelerate the debate, accelerate the consideration, and prevent Senators from offering amendments and other ideas.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I regret the objection from the minority leader, but I understand. This agreement would allow the Senate to pass and send a message to all Americans that we are trying to do what we can in the short term to alleviate the rising gas prices all Americans are paying at the pumps.

I would not suggest for a moment that this is the long-term solution, and I should emphasize, this legislation would allow for the suspension of the 4.3-cents-a-gallon gas tax for the remainder of the year, with a trigger device that says that if the average price nationwide reaches \$2, then there will be a gas tax holiday for the remainder of the year for the full 18.4 cents a gallon.

It is pretty simple and straightforward. There would be time for debate, but I understand.

We will get the process started, and we will see how it develops in terms of the debate and what votes will occur in order for us to start this process, which looks like we will have to go through a motion to proceed to invoke cloture on the bill and then there will be subsequent votes.

In order for this to be considered in a timely fashion, which could take as long as a week or two, I thought we needed to get it started.

#### MOTION TO PROCEED—S. 2285

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 473 and send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to the Gas Tax Repeal Act, S. 2285:

Trent Lott, Frank H. Murkowski, Paul Coverdell, Conrad Burns, Larry E. Craig, Mike Crapo, Judd Gregg, Orrin Hatch, Rod Grams, Susan Collins, Robert F. Bennett, Chuck Grassley, Mike Inhofe, Don Nickles, Sam Brownback, and Richard G. Lugar.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur then on Thursday. I will work with the Democratic leader to set this vote, hopefully following the passage of the satellite loan guarantee bill, which I know the Senate is anxious to get completed. It was part of an agreement last year that we entered into with regard to the satellite bill that there was a need for a loan program to make sure that it actually worked, and so this bill will be on the floor. I am sure there are going to be some amendments that will be offered on that, but we would like to complete that and then go to this subsequent vote on Thursday. We will work through the timing of it. In the meantime, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

#### LEADER'S LECTURE SERIES—BOB DOLE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I note that at 6 o'clock tonight, we will be hearing the sixth presentation in the Leader's Lecture Series. Our presenter tonight is our beloved former minority and majority leader, Bob Dole. I encourage all Senators to attend. I know there will be family and friends and guests of Senator Dole. Hopefully, we will be available on C-SPAN so the American people will be interested in hearing from this patriot and one of America's favorite sons.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume debate on S.J. Res. 14, the flag desecration bill for up to 30 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.